From the Tribune.

THE NEW YORK PRESS.

FI TORIAL OPINIONS OF LEADING SCURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

CONFILID BYLLY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Coals of Fire.

We shall receive in about a month the English nev spapers containing accounts of the Fenian invasion of Canada, and copious comments thereupon. Probably it would be too much to hope that the Times and its contemporaries would reproduce those admirable dissertations on the rights and daties of neutrals by which we were instructed during the four years of the Rebellion. It was an object then to show that neutrality covered all privileges and few obligations. Now, the English press, having completed its homilies on that side of the question, will present the other view with equal sincerity and force, and will discover a vast number of duties which the American Government is called upon to perform in order to prevent an expedition from its own soil into British territory. Mr. Vernon Harcourt, having exhausted his learning and his logic to prove that no precedent could be found against the fitting out of piratical cruisers in neutral ports to prey on the commerce of a belligerent, will reappear in the Times with fresh arguments for the obligation resting on our authorities to protect the Canada frontier of a thousand miles against all hostile excursions. We have not the slightest doubt that he will succeed in this new enterprise as well as in the old, and we can easily predict that the dear, stupid British public, with its chronic incapacity for seeing two sides of a question at the same time, will read its morning Bible and "Historicas" its morning Bible and toricus" its prophet, with a faith not less im-plicit than when he discoursed upon the same topic from a different point of view. It will not difficult to adduce, in this new line of argument, a number of historical parallels.

We may compare, for instance, the crossing of the Femians with the escape of the Aubuma. We find General Grant, the moment the matter promised to become serious, hurrying to Buffalo, summoning his officers to duty, and suggesting that the militia be called out to prevent hostile expeditions from leaving the United States. It would complete the parallel were we able to say that the Lords of the Admiralty, when dirst warned of the Alabama, hurried down to Liverpool to lay an embargo on her departure. When it was announced that the Fenians were moving between the American and Canadian shores, the armed American steamer Michigan, with a number of consorts, patrolled the inter-vening waters to prevent e ther reinforcements or retreat. The name of the British man-of-war which did police duty in the Mersey to intercept the Alabama on a similar occasion has escaped our memory. We find General Meade first at Eastport, in Maine, then in Buffalo, N. Y., then racing along the railways to Ogdens-burg, to resist successive movements of the

Fernans against different parts of Canada.
Who is his British rival in activity and zeal?
When the lorges under O'Neill are compelled to Tetreat, the Michigan captures them, and Sir Frederick Bruce at Washington begs Mr. Seward that they may be detained till a demand can be made for their extradition. Mr. Seward, with I is reverence for precedents, might have quoted to Sir Frederick Bruce the Szenandonh returning to Liverpool with a British crew, and could have recalled with much effect the adjudication of Lord Clarendon that there was no evidence upon which any of the men could be held. Following that example, he should have directed the discharge of the mistaken patriots whom indiscreet commander of the Michi-had made prisoners. But we find gan had made prisoners. But we and Mr. Seward ordering their detention in the custody of the United States Marshal. Surely, this is such an act of disrespect to the Foreign Ministration of the Company ter of Great Britain as will provoke a dignified

When Sir Frederick addressed Mr. Seward on the general subject of invasion, he should have been met, as Mr. Adams was met by Earl Russell, with the assurance that the Foreign Office sell, with the assurance that the Foreign Office was in possession of no official information on the subject. He should have been assured that due inquiry would be made. He should have been referred to the Collector of Customs at Buffalo as the proper official to institute an investigation, and, by the Collector, should have been passed along to the Board of Advisers, and by them to the District Attorney and by him to by them to the District Attorney, and by him to 2he Grand Jury for the District, and so on indefinitely. That would have been in strict accordance with British precedent, and it is greatly to be regretted that Mr. Seward should have shown himself so forgetful of these monuments of international law arising out of our own most re-cent diplomatic negotiation. The fact that he exchanges places with Earl Russell, and Sir Frederick Bruce with Mr. Adams, cannot alter the law under which the cases are to be decided. The lact that it is your bull and not me. The fact that it is your bull and not my ox that was gored, never did make any difference-

Well, we believe the British nation and Goverament, though they did us grievous wrong and harm, are still capable of generous impulses, and will be put to honorable shame by The strenuous and intelligent efforts of our Government to execute its neutrality obligations. To have gone back to British precedents, to have called up all the remembrances from our civil war which might have justified us in disregarding international comity and good will, would have gratified a momentary passion among the people; but we are sure that twenty years hence America will be glad to recollect that no exasperation was bifter enough to cause a viriation of our duties, or to occasion an offi-cial blindness towards the acts of men who with only toleration extended them, could easily have wre-ted from Great Britain her most important North American colony. Whether, however, our Government has not shown an over-auxious and superserviceable zeal against the Fenians, is a matter on which there may be two opinions. We would have had the President do his whole duty under the law, yet keep rigidly within the requirements of international comity. There was no occasion to do more than our duty. We had a legal, mot a moral obligation, to -reat Britain, and we doubt whether all the activity on the frontier which Washington telegrams have stimulated comes within the limits of the law.

The European C isis-Plans of Prussia.

From the Daily News It may not be generally known that all along Prussia, under the lead of Bismark, has had other objects in view besides mere territorial aggrandizement by the absorption of the Elbe Duchies-Schleswig-Holstein. Prussla has what may almost be called a hereditary plan for the future. She is determined to become a great naval as well as military power in the northern centre of Europe. As at present constituted, her territorial limits confine her to the Baltic, The southern coast of which only is under her rule. What Russia seeks by her meditated advance to the South, and by striving to possess the Bosphorus and the Dardanelies, Prussia intends to obtain by the possession of Schleswig and Holstein. Her main ports of Dantzic and Stettin are dependent on the free and unob-structed passage of the Sound and the Katlegat, and a small naval detachment in these narrows would completely shut up the Prossian navy In the Baltic, and render it useless for other

service.

Hence it was that at the time of the proposed imperial union of Germany, as resolved by the Parliament at Frankfort in 1849, the attempt to Parliament at Frankfort in 1849, the attempt to create a German fleet was no where more loudly cheered, more heartily indorsed, and more energeically supported and assisted, than among the people of Prussia. Upon the collapse of the movement inaugurated at Frankfort, the two war vessels actually provided for the "German Navy" were seized by Prussia, and, if still on duty, are in her service. But the idea of a

"German Navy" had taken root, not only among the people, but the Government of Prusia. It was at once obvious to them that the first and starting point should be a naval depot, and located to that its usefulness should not be deem dent upon the ability of Prusia to keep the Sound and the Kartegat open. The Prusian Government entered, therefore, into negotiations with Hanover, and mally acquired, by purchase and cossion of jurisdiction, a port and site sultable for a naval depot on the North Sea, now called Jandebusen, where for more than ten ted so that its usefulness should not be decen-dent upon the ability of Prussia to keep the Sound and the Kattegat open. The Prussian Government entered, therefore, into negotiations with Hanover, and finally acquired, by purchase and cession of jurisdiction, a port and site saita-ble for a naval depot on the North Sea, now called Jahdebusen, where for more than ten years millions have been expended to make it a safe barboi for the Prussian fleet, a port of re-inge in case of diaster, and a depot of arma-ment and supply in case of intended expeditions. The conquest of the Elbe Duchies, however, gave Prussia an increased opportunity to realize

gave Prussia an increased copor unity to realize its cherished object. Kiel is a plendid backor, capable of holding the largest fleet on the con-tinent without being overcrowded; and hence we find that in the Gasteln Convention, a separate provision is inserted as to Kiel in favor of Prussia. But Kiel opens out on the Baltic, and is therefore subject to the same drawbacks as the other Prussian harbors to the east of it. Still, it was a great improvement in the position of Prussia as a naval power.

It is only the entire possession by Prussia of the two Dachies of Schleswig and Hoistein, by which she can ultimately achieve what she wants. The boundary between Holstein and Schleswig is the river Eider, entering the North Sea at Toenning, and being connected with the Baltic by the Eider Canal, from Rendsburg to Friedrichstadt. This Eider Canal, as at present built, is not what it was projected once to be-During the continuance of the Danish Sound duties it was proposed to widen and deepen the river, and build the canal so that all vessels of any size may pass from the North Sea to the Baltic, without paying duty to Dermark at Elsinore. The hostility of the German popu-lation of the Duchies to the Panes viewed this project in the light of a patriotic and peculiarly German undertaking. Money was contributed, surveys made, preliminary work done, and the canal as at present existing between Rendsburg and Friedrichstadt completed, as a beginning for the greater work of a grand, capacious ship canal between the two oceans, when the capitalization of the Sound dues, and their consequent abolition, did away with the main cause for it, and it has remained uncompleted ever

We do not heritate at all to say it, although we have nowhere as yet seen any definite indication of such a purpose on the part of Prussia, that Bismark is not forgetful of the tradi-tional attempts of his Government to secure for itself the position of a first-class naval power in the northern oceans of Europe. The hardy population of the Duchies is attached and inured to sea life. The large mercantile marine of Hamburg, Lubeck, and Bremen is recruited in the largest portion from these Duchies. Go on beard of any vessel of these three Hanseat coiles, and you find that Hoisteiners and Schleswigers predominate among the crew. And the reputation for sca-laring qualities of the Hanseatic mariner is unquestionably second to none. Considering, moreover, the natural taci-lities the river Eider offers for an uninter rupted water communication between the North Sea and the Battic, taking in view the eminent location of Toenning or Friedrichstadt as a paval depot on Prussian soil, in immediate connection and communication by water and rail with the rest of the Prussian monarchy, and not a mere outpost, surrounded by foreign territory, it is not to be expected that Prussia would yield up such great prospective advantages, promising to add so vastly to her greatness as a military naval power, w thout a struggle, or at the bidding of diplomatists assembled around the green table of an European Congress.

International Aspect of the Fenian War. From the Herald.

No matter how diverse may be the views of individuals as to the success or failure of the Fenian war, there is in this country a unanimous sentiment of congratulation that Canada has at last been made to feel some of the injuries which the British inflicted upon us during the recent Rebellion. This sentiment may not be very charitable, but it is decidedly natural. England commenced her inimical proceedings at the very outset of our Rebellion by recognizing the belligerent rights of the seceded States. Canada heartily approved of this recognition. Then English subjects, and Canadians among them, took care that the Rebels were supplied with arms, ammunition, clothing, machinery, and all the necessaries of war, and one of the islands in possession of the British became a regular Rebel depot. Next Rebel privateers were furnished by England, armed with British cannon and manned with seamen trained in the royal navy, and these paratical vessels drove our commerce from the seas, enjoyed peculiar privileges in the Eritish harbors, British dockyards, and British colonies, and were in every respect better treated by the official representatives of England than were the ships of the United States navy. A British yacht was on hand to rescue Captain Semmes when he was fairly our prisoner, and British judges repea edly connived in the most fiagrant manner at the escape of Rebel crews.
When we captured Mason and Slidell England
was ready to go to war with us if they were not released. Thus by a thousand outrageous acts of hostility England has created an enmity against her on the part of the American people which exceeds in bitterness the feeling gene rated by the wars of the Revolution and of 1812, and which will not soon be forgotten by a nation so quick to resent an injury. This enmity towards Great Britain in part accounts for the general satisfaction with which the news of the Fenian invasion of Canada was re-

But, besides this, the Canadians have themselves run up a score of ill-will which the Fenians are now assisting us to settle. A neighpeople, bound to us by innumerable social and business ties, and enjoying nearly all the beneuts of a Reciprocity treaty that has since been abrogated as a punishment for their offenses, we had a right to expect their sympathy during our terrible troubles. Instead of this the Caradians not only cordially endorsed the hostile proceedings of the home Government, and echoed the Parliamentary rejoicings over the supposed rain of the American Union, but they were insane enough to undertake to attack us upon their own account. During the whole war Canada was simply a Rebel rendezvous. The Rebel leaders used it as a northern base of operations against us. In Canada Rebel emissaries labored, Rebel expeditions were organized, and the Rebel communications with Europe were maintained unbroken. From Canada came the incendiaries with black valles to burn our cities, the gangs of Rebel pirates to seize the *Chesapeake* and other steamers, and the secret conspirators and assassins to murder our President. Canadians sent us infected clothing to devastate the country with smallpox and yellow fever, and laid projects for poisoning our citizens by wholesale by infusing deadly minerals into our reservoirs. Out of Canada came the bands of highwaymen who robbed the banks and plundered the luhabitants of our frontier towns. Canadian Judges rejused to condemn these men, and the Canadian police were known to be in league with them. These facts, and others of the same character, are matters of history. The American people remember hem well, and we should be either more or less than human if we did not look upon the Fenian invasion of Canada as a Nemesis, and smile to see the Canadians suffering from some of the same injuries which they were so anxious to

inflict upon us.
Aside from this natural popular complacency, however, there is nothing in common between the neutrality observed by the British in our war and by us in this Fenian war. British neutrality was a sham; American neutrality is real. British neutrality was merely a diabolical device to aid the Rebellion without openly fighting us; our neutrality is so uncompromising that it assists our enemies, the British, and hurts our friends, the Fenians. We have not recognized the Fenians as a belligerent power, nor allowed Fenian Alabamas and Sheaandoahs to leave our ports, nor supplied the Fenians with arms, ammunition, artillery, uniforms, and provisions. Had we done so, or had we done

did not understand it when we were in didicul-ties. Whether or not our Government has acted wisely is a question for the future to determine. The majority of our people believe that our neutrality ought to have been modelled exactly upon that of England, and that, instead of cripping the Fenians, we ought to have assisted them. The Government thought differently; and in spite of all the European sneers about the mob law which rules in this country our people have again shown, as in the Treat case, that they will loyally sustain the legal authorities even when the Government comes in conflict with the popular sentiment of the moment.

It now remains to be seen whether the magna-nimity of the United States will be appreciated by the British. The Government should at once renew the demand for the Alabama claims. Let us see whether England is enlightened enough to be willing to pay them now. The Canadians are talking about shooting the Fenians after a drumhead court-martial. This ought not to be permitted; for among the Fenians there may be some veteran American soldiers, whose lives must not be sacrificed. Any demand for the Fenian prisoners taken by the Michigan must also be refused, with the case of Captain Semmes for a precedent. In a word, if Engineering the content of the cont land will acknowledge her offenses against neutrality, pay the Alobama damages, and consult us in a triendly spirit as to the final disposition to be made of those Fenians whose plans have been deleated by the United States offi-cials rather than by the Canadiaus, our people may then be brought to perceive the wisdom of the course of the Government. But if the event proves that we can teach England nothing by a good example, then the next Fenian invasion will have quite another ending, and our neu-trality will be of a very different pattern.

Permanent and Precarious Incomes.

From the Dusty News. There is a very objectionable feature in the Income Tax, which it would be well for Congress, in its reformation of the Internal Revenue laws, to take into consideration. This is the imposition of the same rate of duty upon such permanent incomes as are derived from real estate and moretary investments in stocks, shares, mortgages, etcetera, from what may be called capitalized property, and upon such precarious ones as are derived from labor and the profits of trades and professions. It is true that no discomes in Great Britain, yet there has always been, and still continues to be, a large body of nifluential men and persistent financial reformers in that country, who are stoutly opposed to the present system of taxing all incomes alike; but those are overruled by the aristocrats and landowners in Parliament, who naturally desire to essen their own burdens as much as possible, even though it should necessitate an unfair weight being carried by the industrial popula-tion of the kingdom. Now it forcibly strikes us that the very cause which produces such injustice in an aristocratic country, should have the effect of leading to a more equitable adjustment of the burdens which are required to be borne by the citizens of a republican and eminently industrial nation.

The profits of all trades and professions may

be looked upon as life annuities, the owners of which are, by the present system of levying the income tax, charged five times as much as those more fortunate persons who have investments in real estate or otherwise, who may be said to be the most wealthy persons in the land, and who possess that sorplus fund which is over and above what is required for the maintenance of the productive classes, and live upon it without

labor of their own. The security of property, more than anything else, depends upon the stability of a government; therefore property should contribute its proper porportion to the support of government. A person's income from such a source depre-ciates in proportion as his property is less secure. But if by a stable government his property is rendered perfectly safe, he is not only enabled during his life to support himself with-out labor, but at his death to leave the entire of his possessions to whomever he chooses to bequeath them. It is different with the man who gains his livelihood by labor, or lives upon the profits of trade or profession. A good govern-ment certainly guarantees to him security in his person, but it secures him no income except that for which he toils; and, when his capital solely consists in his own brains or in his brawny arms, it is extinguished at his death. It is not fair, then, that the latter, who does not receive so large an amount of protection from the government as the former, should be required to bear an equal amount of taxation.

But there are other and still more weighty reasons why precarious incomes should be less heavily taxed than permanent ones. We can hest explain the matter by an illustration. Two persons possess incomes at five thousand dollars a year each. A obtains his from the rental of real estate, which he inherited; it satisfies his desires, so he lives an idle life, contributes nothing to the general welfare of the country, and when he dies leaves the entire property to his descendants. B is a lawyer or physician, whose professional education has cost several years of study, and perhaps an outlay of some four or five thousand dollars. After some years of weary waiting he manages to earn the five thousand a year, but he cannot afford to live up to the extent of his income, like his more fortunate neighbor A, because it is a precarious one, dependent on his exertions and health; he must therefore set aside a certain sum annually, so that he may have the means of support when overtaken by sickness or old age, or in the event of death, so that he can leave a provision lor his widow and probably a young lamily. And yet B's precarious income is taxed precisely the same amount as A's permanent one.

It is not only manifestly untair, but highly in politic, that the annual proceeds of property and industry should be taxed alike. When a discrimination is made in tavo of the latter, the income tax will escape a part of the odium it has at present, to bear. Every inducement should be given the possessor of a precarious income to set apart a portion thereof for "a rainy day;" this, in its turn, would become permanent property, the proceeds of which would be liable to the higher rate of duty that should be impo ed upon permanent incomes. Taxation. at the best, can hever be said to meet with favor in the eyes of the people, who have to bear it; but when taxes are fairly distributed, borden becomes far less onerous than when the

The Reconstruction Question.

From the World. Reconstruction is rapidly sinking in Congress from the strategy of a campaign to the tactics of a particular battle. At tae beginning of the session, the predominating idea of the Republicans was to keep the Southern States out of national politics as long as possible; the predominant idea at present is, to enable the Republicans to carry the next Congressional elections. They will pitch their election song in a key low enough for the conservative Republicans, relying on party unity for success. If a schism can be prevented, they expect to elect the next Congress, and thus retain control of the Government during the pendency of the Presidential election.

The radicals can afford, in this view, any temporary relaxation in the rigor of their princi-ples which does not lead to the immediate admission of the Southern members. This Congress, which does not expire until the 4th of March, 1867, will hold another session after the elections; when they can revise their present action, and venture upon bolder measures. But if they lose the next Congress, their party is undot e. The modifications of the Reconstruction plan made by the senate caucus transform as a means of circumventing the President and slifting any open declaration of his dissent. It is held that the proposed Constitutional amend-ments may be submitted to the States without asking his approval; and if that part of the plan which it is proposed to embody into laws small be deferred, he will be reduced to official silence by want of an opportunity to interpose his veto. This crafty suggestion for dwarfing the President to a nonentity doubtless had its origin in the scheming brain of Mr. Johnson's Secre-tary of State. The Times astutely shows (we repeat the substance of its argument, not its form) that the surest guarantee for keeping the Southern States out, is the election of another Congress like the present—which will be most securely done by putting the President in a vacuum, like a bell which loses its sound in the

exhausted receiver of an air-pustp.

The caucus scheme is cunningly devised for misrepresenting the position, and counteracting the influence, of the President. Certain expressions said to have been, at some time, used by Mr. Johnson, are industriously paraded to con-vey the impression that he has virtually ap-proved of the leading features of this scheme in advance. It is alleged that he, at one time, ex-pressed himself not unfavorable to an amend-ment of the Constitution apportioning representatives to the States in the ratio of their quali-fied voters; and that he has more than once sig-nified his opposition to Rebels holding office. No-body knows better than the authors of this trick that they pervert the language of the President. If he favors the apportioning of representatives to voters, it does not thence follow that he thinks this is a proper prerequisite of reconstruc-tion. We believe he also favors an amendment dispensing with Presidential electors, and giving the election directly to the people; but it would be absurd to infer that he therefore disapproves of holding any more Presidential elections until such an amendment is adopted. He deprecates the election of Recels, as he would deprecate the re-election of Thad, Stevens and Charles Sum-ner; but it does not follow that he wishes to ren-der either class ineligible by an amendment to the Constitution. the Constitution.

The position of President Johnson is as clear as it is impregnable, and no political enicanery can obscure it. Whatever Constitutional amendments he may desire or deprecate, he is unmis-takably committed to the right of the Southern States to immediate representation. It is irrelevant to say that he wishes this, or opposes that unless the retailers of his savings are prepared to prove that he does not desire the restoration of the Union until all his personal opinions are made a part of the Constitution. His position is, that all the States are entitled to be represented now, and consequently that Congress has no right to exact any conditions to the exercise of that right. He has committed himself to this position in every possible way in which the Chie Magistrate of the country can commit himself to anything—in his Annual Message, in his veto me-sages, in repeated public speeches to citizens, in innumerable private conversations. I therefore, the sheerest dishonesty to pretend that he is in any way committed, directly or indirectly, to the scheme of the Senate caucus, as a condition of reconstruction. He maintains that the South has been, for more than six months, entitled to representation, without conditions of any kind-deriving the right directly from the Constitution.

Or the many arguments in favor of this right we will present one to which we wish some Republican journal (the Tribune, if it pleases) would attempt a reply. This argument is founded on the irrepealable nature of cartain acts of Congress. That some acts of Congress are not repealable at the pleasure of that body is manifest, as, for example, the law which fixes the compensation of a President actually in office. The Con-titution declares that the Pre-dent shall received a compensation which shall not be increased nor diminished during his term. Another law irrepealable in its nature is that passed after each decennial census, apportioning the representatives among the States for the ensuing ten years. The apportionment, when once passed, is as much fixed for the period, as is the salary of the President for his term.

Now, our argument is, that what Congress is prohibited by the Constitution from doing directly, it cannot rightfully do by a subterfuge. Congress cannot alter the salary of a President in office; but may it deprive him of it by neglecting to pass an appropriation bill? power ever appropriations is complete; but who does not see that it would be abused if used to defeat a plain provision of the Constitution? So it cannot repeal the law, passed in 1862 (while the Rebellion was in full blast), apportioning a certain number of representatives to the Southern (as well as all the other) States; but may it accomplish its virtual repeal by an abuse of the power of each House to judge of the qualifications of its members? The idea is preposterous; it is difficult to see

how any honest mind can entertain it. Suppose that this were the year for taking a census; the Southern States would be included in it, of course. Suppose the census already taken, and this the year for making the apportionment of Representatives founded on i; would Congress declare that the House should consist of a certain number of members, and proceed to distribute them all among the States low represented? Who does not perceive that this would be in open defiance of one of the most imperative provisions of the Constitution But if the Constitution would be defied and trampled on by neglecting to assign eleven States their share in the apportionment, it is not less violated in refusing them the seats to which an unrepealed irrepeatable apportionment act declares them entitled. It is as if a court of justice should refuse a suitor an execution after recording a judgment in his favor.

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Subscriptions will be received at the Rooms of the Cora I xchenge Association, for the balance of the capi al stock, daily, itom 11 A. M. to 12 M. (Signed)

SAMULE L. WARD, Treasurer. I hisaleiphia, May 11, 1866

5 II im

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CHARLES M. BETTS,

Late Lieutenant Colonel.

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